

Serial No.: 09/755,489
Attorney Docket No.: A0-079 US

the connector.

Q2
16. (Newly added) The electrical connector housing of claim 13, wherein the housing is a combination connector housing with the elongated body portion including a data section of the connector housing and at least one of the enlarged end portions including a power section of the connector.

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed October 1, 2001, the Examiner rejected claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 5,238,413 ("McCaffrey et al."). By the present amendment, claim 6 has been amended, and claims 10-16 are newly added. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested. Claims 1-16 are currently pending.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by McCaffrey et al. "A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." *Verdegall Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of Calif.*, 814 F.2d 628, 631 (Fed. Cir. 1987). Because McCaffrey et al. does not recite each and every element set forth in claims 1-9, McCaffrey et al. cannot anticipate the electrical connector recited in claims 1-9 of the present application.

Independent claim 1 recites an electrical connector comprising, *inter alia*, a molded plastic housing having an elongated body portion defining a front mating face and a rear terminating face of the connector, a plurality of terminal-receiving passages defined by wall means extending between said mating and terminating faces, and said wall means being of generally uniform thickness between the faces. In asserting that McCaffrey et al. anticipates the connector recited in independent claim 1, the Examiner stated, *inter alia*, that McCaffrey et al. discloses a molded plastic housing (2) having an elongated body portion (38) defining a front mating face (4) and a rear terminating face of the connector (1), a plurality of terminal-receiving passages (passages where terminals 40 are located) defined by wall means extending between the

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mating (4) and terminating faces, and the wall means being of generally uniform thickness between the faces. Applicants disagree with the Examiner's characterization of the disclosure of McCaffrey et al.

McCaffrey et al., as illustrate in Figure 4 and reproduced below, discloses a molded plastic housing having a front terminating face and a rear terminating face, and a plurality of terminal-receiving passages extending from the front mating face to the rear terminating face. However, as clearly illustrated in Figure 4 of McCaffrey et al., the walls of the terminal-receiving cavities are not of uniform thickness between the front mating face and the rear terminating face. Rather, the walls of the forward, or "D" portion are of one thickness (T1), and the walls of the remaining portion are of another, greater thickness (T2).

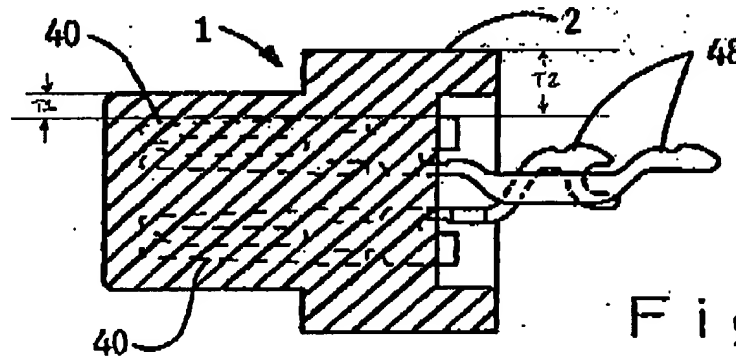


Fig. 4

Thus, contrary to the Examiner's contention, McCaffrey et al. does not disclose terminal-receiving cavities with walls of uniform thickness extending from the front mating face to the rear terminating face. As such, McCaffrey et al. cannot anticipate the electrical connector recited in independent claim 1 and dependent claims 2-5 that ultimately depend on claim 1.

Amended independent claim 6 recites an electrical connector comprising, *inter alia*, a molded plastic housing having an elongated body portion longitudinally extending between opposite end portions, a plurality of terminal-receiving passages extending transversely through the body portion, the body portion being of a generally uniform width, and the end portions

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being wider than the body portion therebetween. As is clearly illustrated in the figures of McCaffrey et al, and in particular, Figures 1 and 6 of McCaffrey et al., the width of the body portion is not generally uniform because there is the "D" shaped portion that is not as wide as the remaining portion of the body portion. Moreover, end portions of McCaffrey et al. are as wide as the body portion of McCaffrey et al. at the body portion. Thus, for at least the above reasons, McCaffrey et al. cannot anticipate the electrical connector recited in amended independent claim 6 and dependent claims 7-9 that ultimately depend on claim 6. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 1-9 as being anticipated by McCaffrey et al.

Applicants are also presenting newly added claims 10-16. These claims do not add new matter, and are not anticipated by McCaffrey. Allowance of newly added claims 10-16 is respectfully requested.

The Examiner also made the following prior art of record, but did not rely upon it: United States Patent No. 6,217,347 ("Schell et al."), United States Patent No. 6,168,453 ("Kuo"), United States Patent No. 4,993,965 ("Eck"), United States Patent No. 5,816,842 ("Thantrakul et al.") and United States Patent No. 5,637,019 ("Crane, Jr. et al."). Those references, whether taken alone or in combination, do not disclose, teach or suggest the subject matter claimed by the applicants.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the rejections in view of the rewritten claims and in light of the above remarks, and allowance of all claims is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conversation will facilitate the prosecution of the above-identified application, the Examiner is invited to call applicants' attorney.

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Respectfully submitted,
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FOR: ELECTRICAL CONNECTOR WITH MOLDED PLASTIC HOUSING
SERIAL NO.: 09/755,489
ART UNIT: 2833
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: A0-079 US

Version of Amended Claim Showing the Changes Made

6. (Amended) An electrical connector, comprising:
- a molded plastic housing having an elongated body portion longitudinally extending between opposite end portions, a plurality of terminal-receiving passages extending transversely through the body portion, the body portion being of a generally uniform width, and the end portions being wider than the body portion therebetween; and
 - a plurality of conductive terminals mounted in said terminal-receiving passages.